

**SAGE Coalition Meeting
Friday, February 19, 2016
1-3pm**

UM-Flint North Bank Center Rm.235
432 N Saginaw St # 400, Flint, MI 48502

Present: Kevin Schronce (CoF), Carrie Baugher (Disability Network), Theresa Roach (CFF), Ali Harris (CFF), Brad Snyder (Genesee County Health Department), Esther Nichols (NKFM), Janet VanDewinkle (Flint River Watershed Coalition), JaQuita Welch (CoF), Nicole Derusha-Mackey (State Rep Pam Feris office; LGBT community rep); Sam Farah (Edible Flint)

Schronce gave an update on the draft zoning code for the City of Flint:

- Over the past 2 years, CoF has been working on a draft zoning code.
- Planning/zoning oversees long range planning, historic district commission, street lights, parks, etc.
- CoF Land Use plan is not able to be legally implemented unless the Zoning Plan is updated. It's currently 300+ pages and approaching completion.
- The 3rd public draft was released in Jan 2016. Schronce encouraged SAGE members to review landscaping standards and parking/installation section. Comments are still welcomed via imagineflint.com.
- Zoning codes minimally alters language as needed 1-2 times a year; the current draft leaves room for a lot of flexibility (ex: uses permitted across urban agriculture: honey bees, solar power, chicken ordinance and other limitations). Reference the Master Use Table - Draft 1.5.16 (available online)
- CoF (City of Flint) Parks Millage expires in 2016.

Roach & Harris presented the Vision & Mission Statement:

Original mission statement:

Safe & Active Genesee for Everyone works together to advocate for and support active living initiatives that promote safe opportunities for people to physically active throughout Genesee County.

New Proposed mission Statement (revised based on feedback from group):

Safe and Active Genesee for Everyone (SAGE) works together to promote, provide, and support active living initiatives that promote safe opportunities for people to be physically active throughout Genesee County.

Original Vision statement:

Safe & Active Genesee for Everyone cultivates accessible, vibrant communities in Flint and Genesee County that encourage people to lead healthy lifestyles.

Proposed Vision statement 1 (revised based on feedback from group):

Safe and Active Genesee for Everyone cultivates accessible, vibrant communities throughout Genesee County that encourage people to lead healthy lifestyles.

Proposed Vision statement 2 (members recommended creating "lofty goal"):

SAGE envisions accessible vibrant communities throughout Genesee County that encourage people to lead healthy lifestyles.

Proposed Vision statement 3 (members recommended creating "lofty goal"):

SAGE envisions Genesee County as the safest, most active, healthiest county in Michigan.

Snyder recommended referencing topnonprofits.com for sample Vision/Mission statements. Members also recommended combining language from vision statement and mission statement language.

SAGE 2016 Suggested Deliverables

1. Host or co-host 1 advocacy training that pertains to infrastructure improvements that impact health (in light of infrastructure changes to come due to corroded water pipelines).
 - a. Work with Flint Neighborhoods United; NKF; Sprout
 - b. Utilize tools during Legislative Town Hall Meeting

SAGE members agreed

2. Host legislative town hall meeting focused on health impacts (i.e. infrastructure, water, health care, Iron Belle Trail, Safe Routes to School, etc.)

Legislative Town Hall: Nicole has contact for each office)

3. Assist with the implementation of at least 2 walking audits (work with Cade on Safe Routes to School for Flint Community Schools; Flint city officials/Master Plan; connect with municipalities currently creating a Master Plan)
 - Van DeWinkle recommended conducting a walking audit in the winter.
 - Derusha-Mackey asked if it would be helpful to identify structural areas where snow cannot be plowed (ex: roots underneath sidewalks).
 - Farah mentioned abandoned homes without owners who can clear the sidewalk.
 - Baugher recommended looking at ordinances on plowing to see if snow trucks can legally leave snow on sidewalk.
 - Harris recommended providing feedback for the planning zone ordinance draft regarding snow plow requirements and sidewalk maintenance.
4. Advocate for items in our policy agenda by attending and encouraging other to attend Legislative Days (ex: League of Michigan Bicyclist's Bike Advocacy Day; Trails Day, etc.)

SAGE members agreed on the goals. More feedback will be sought from members who were not present.

Roach presented the proposed committees:

Handout description:

- **Policy Agenda Committee:** Stay up to date on policies that have been identified in the Policy Agenda determined by the coalition. Notify members of engagement opportunities (public comment, advocacy days, letter writing, public meetings, etc).
- **Membership Committee:** Focus on increasing membership by making contact with neighborhood groups, county and local officials, grassroots organizations and individuals. The Membership Committee will meet one on one with potential new members and partners.
- **Communications Committee:** This committee will focus on maintaining the integrity of the SAGE brand and telling the story of the SAGE coalition in conjunction with the communications efforts taking place at the Crim Fitness Foundation. The committee will determine the best way to notify the public of news, updates, meetings, resources, agendas, and advocacy opportunities via newsletters, social platforms, magazines, articles and the SAGE website.

- Fundraising Committee: Research grants, sponsorships, crowdfunding opportunities, and potentially develop membership fees for services to sustain SAGE initiatives and membership.
- Advocacy Committee: Develop a grassroots advocacy training to prepare latent leaders in Flint and Genesee neighborhoods to lead policy and environmental change efforts. In addition, the committee will coordinate the 2nd annual Legislative Town Hall Meeting Day and form a trail ride to promote use and advocacy of local walking/biking trails.

Sage members recommended updating:

- Membership/Fundraising to Sustainability committee
- Communications to Marketing/Communication

Identify a chairperson for each committee (makes sure members can meet, types up reports for each group, etc.)

Harris & Roach can attend the first few meetings of each committee to assist with initial implementation.

Harris and Roach asked if members would like to join a committee:

- Baugher recommended Adrian from the Disability Network (likely to serve on the Membership committee), Welch's VISTA term is ending and will introducing the new VISTA team member Eric to the group.
- Policy Agenda: Ali Harris, Nicole Derusha-Mackey
- Communications/Marketing: Theresa Roach
- Membership/Sustainability Committee: Theresa Roach, Sam Farah, Esther Nichols
- Snyder is interested and checking to see what his availability is.
- Events/Advocacy: Ali Harris, Sam Farah

Roach informed the group that the Crim is creating a promotional brochure and SAGE will be a part of that.

VanDewinkle presented the Flint River restoration map:

- Addresses critical infrastructure and revitalizes the riverfront.
- Naturalizes the river and makes it accessible and is very transformative for the City of Flint and enhances non-motorized trails.
- Van DeWinkle encouraged SAGE members to advocate for the plan. She will continue to share updates.

Flint Master Plan Updates

- Welch informed the group that CoF completed the light audit for parks and will be conducting an equipment inventory/audit in a couple of months.
- Max Brandon's will have 8 new vibrant interpretive signage; public comments are welcome at Bethlehem Temple at 5:30pm on Feb 25.
- A mowing plan for the CoF is being developed and will allow small contractors to maintain certain zones in the city.
- Visit cityofflint.com to view more details.
- Choice Neighborhoods is still conducting a needs assessment.

Recognition Letters

Roach informed the group that if recognition letters need to be sent, notify her via email at troach@crim.org

Successes/Announcements

- Baugher requested electronic docs/links to the grant announcement for the Blue Bell Beach sidewalk installation and Burton sidewalk installation plan.
- Nichols: the Champion of Hope awards dinner will be April 6 to honor community members working on health initiatives throughout the community. Applications for nominations are available.
- NKFM is implementing the Kidney Path Workshop for caregivers or someone who has Chronic Kidney disease. The workshop is free for participants. Programs are being offered during 2016.
- Nichols provided handouts on the Flint Water crisis.
- Snyder: the "Speak to Your Health" community survey is available online until May. Current data suggests there is a correlation between reported water quality and PTSD. The survey is available at www.gchd.us/speak. Snyder can send materials and hard copy surveys if you contact him via email. A team is at the health department providing info on "Train the Trainer" regarding educating residents on lead poisoning. Training ranges 45minutes to 1 hour. The information is also available on the Genesee County Health Department website.
- Genesee County Public Health Conference is May 3. The theme is "Environmental Health."
- Derusha-Mackey announced coffee hours/town hall meetings:

- o Monday, Feb 22 Sen. Ananich and Rep. Ferris 10am-11am; Genesee township office
- o Town Hall Meeting Feb 27 at Davison Senior Center 2pm-4pm, Feris, Smiley, and Ananich
- Lead testing clinics are still open (visit <http://www.gchd.us/>)
- Farah handed out information on "How the Flint Water Crisis Affects Gardening" flyer. A forum will be held Tuesday, March 1 with 3 presentations. A water in the garden fact sheet will be provided during the forum. Open-house style schedule. Edibleflint.org has more information.
- Baugher informed the group that on Saturday, March 12 the City of Davison Health & Wellness Expo sponsored by HAP and Hurley will take place.

Next meeting will be March 18 at MSU Extension, 1pm-3pm . Enter through Saginaw St